Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06559 200152Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 SSM-03 EB-08 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4040

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, ET, UR, LY

SUBJ: ALLEGED SOVIET MACHINATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

1. IN UNATTRIBUTED ARTICLE APRIL 19, "POLITICAL EDITOR"
OF AKHBAR ANNOUNCES THAT SECRET SOVIET ENVOY ARRIVED IN
ADDIS "TWO DAYS AGO" TO CONVINCE MENGISTU TO BREAK RELATIONS
WITH EGYPT AND SUDAN. "NEW SOVIET POLITICAL MANEUVER AGAINST
EGYPT", IN WHICH "CRAZY MAN OF LIBYA" ALSO INVOLVED, TO
BE ACCOMPLISHED IN STAGES, FIRST INVOLVING REDUCTION OF
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EGYPTIAN DIP MISSION TO ETHIOPIA TO THREE MEN. SOVIET ENVOY ALLEGEDLY INFORMED MENGISTU THAT QADHAFI, WHO IN COMPLETE ACCORD WITH MOSCOW IN THIS REGARD, WILLING TO PROVIDE ETHIOPIA WITH HUGE SUMS OF MONEY, UP TO \$1 BILLION, SHOULD EPMG MOVE TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND SUDAN.

2. MEANWHILE, AHRAM CARRIES AFP REPORT FROM ABU DHABI

INDICATING THAT SALEH OSMAN SABBE, "CHIEF OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FRONT OF ERITREAN REVOLTUION", STIRRING UP GULF STATES WITH REPORTS THAT "TWIN DEVILS", ISRAEL AND "COMMUNIST STATES", NOT ONLY ATTACKING ERITREAN REVOLUTION, BUT SOMALIA AND SUDAN. GUMHURIYYA, AS ADDITION TO SABBE REMARKS, NOTES THAT ELF FORCES IN ERITREA SHOT DOWN THREE ETHIOPIAN PLANES RECENTLY.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DETEREMINE WHETHER LURID AKHBAR ACCOUNT OFFICIAL INSPIRED, LOW KEY GUMHURIYYA MERELY NOTES THAT PMAC DEBATED PREVIOUS DAY POSSIBILITY OF SEVERING RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND SUDAN. AKHBAR HAS, OF LATE, WORKED ITSELF INTO LATHER OVER SOVIET-LIBYAN MACHINATIONS IN AFRICA AND DEPICTION OF LONG SOVIET HAND IN PMAC DEBATES IN LINE WITH RECENT AKHBAR COMMENTRARY ON SOVIET SPECTRE OVER AFRICA. TREATMENT OF SABBE STATEMENTS AND ELF EXPLOITS ON FRONT PAGES OF LOCAL DAILIES REFLECTS GROWING EGYPTIAN CONCERN WITH EVENTS IN HORN.

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